



NRWA Rural Water Rally

By: Frank Dunmire, Executive Director

March 2016
VOLUME 19 ISSUE 1

**Water
Quality
Sanitation
Infrastructure
Protection
Education
Representation
Technical Assistance**

NRWA held its annual Rural Water Rally in Washington DC from February 8 – 10. During the rally representatives from small and rural Communities, Co-Ops, Districts, etc. from every state descended on our Nation's Capitol to urge all members of Congress to adopt policies that benefit their systems' drinking water safety, wastewater quality, source water protection, compliance, emergency response, security, training, and water infrastructure. This has been a very successful tactic over the past 30-plus years and its success can be summed up in the words of NRWA's Past President, Doug Anderton. He reminds us at every opportunity that "The power of this association results in a force that accomplishes objectives that no one person could accomplish on their own. In our case, we - all rural and small community people - have joined together to improve the welfare, the economy, the health, environment, and the living standards of rural Americans. We did that by providing drinking water and sanitation to rural people and communities. Our work, dedication, and leadership has allowed us to realize great accomplishments that would not have occurred without our associations. All of the power of this movement comes from you, the grassroots, all of our accomplishments come from you, and only by organizing together with a common purpose can we realize the power of an association."

Prior to the kickoff of the rally on Monday evening, the NRWA Board of Directors held their committee meetings on Friday before its all-day Board meeting on Saturday. At the Board meeting several speakers from USDA and USEPA requested to address the Board concerning the programs that each of those agencies fund and their importance.

On Tuesday morning a packed crowd was on hand to greet Congressman Tom Cole (OK) and Secretary of

Agriculture Tom Vilsack with standing ovations during the opening session.

Cole, a Republican representative from Oklahoma, praised the quality of Rural Water programs and the "bang for the buck" they provide. He warned, however, that growing federal deficits were forcing Congress to make difficult spending choices. The Congressman also went on to say that Congress and the next administration (whether Republican or Democrat) would be facing some very difficult choices on issues that would include Social Security, the deficit, and tax reforms, while not crippling critical programs – such as those that support clean drinking water.

Secretary Vilsack then took the stage to speak about budget difficulties as well, and how funding choices, even within the same department, could impact other programs. In a "nut shell" when spending is increased in one line item there is usually an offsetting decrease in another. Without an overall increase in the total number of dollars it is virtually impossible for them to increase funding in one area without decreasing it in another and that is why NRWA's message to Congress is always so important.

After the opening session it was time for all in attendance to head to the hill to start visiting all of their respective states' Congressional offices. Illinois Rural Water Association was represented this year by Steve Fletcher, Greg Bates, Dale Hanner, Jeff Tumiaty, Perry Musgrave and Frank Dunmire. In all, Illinois has 20 Congressional offices to visit (18 Representatives and 2 Senators) and accomplishes that task in about 1 and a half days. The appointments are all made well in advance of the trip out and (as long as there is no unforeseen schedule changes) goes off like clockwork. This year Steve Fletcher and I was invited to meet with Congressman Shimkus for coffee at the Capitol Grille in DC. (continued on page 2)

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IRWA'S MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site technical assistance"

On Wednesday, February 10th, the winners of each state-wide competition competed for the best tasting water in the country at NRWA's Great American Water Taste Test. The taste test was held during the noon luncheon at the Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill. State Rural Water Associations conduct preliminary competitions selecting the best water from small and rural water supplies to represent their state at the national finals and Illinois was represented this year by EJ Water Cooperative. The drinking water is judged based on three attributes: clarity, bouquet, and taste. A panel of preliminary judges selected the five finalists from entries submitted from across the nation. Rural Utility Service Administrator, Brandon McBride, Assistant Administrator for Water and Environmental Programs, Jacki Ponti-Lazaruk, RUS Senior Advisor Titilayo Ogunyale, Director for Rural Water Programs Division, Kent Evans, and USDA Engineering and Environmental Staff Director, Kelli Kubena served as the final judges. A cheer went up as officials from the Glenbrook Water Cooperative in Glenbrook, NV headed to the stage to accept the Gold Medal Award at the Great American Water Taste Test. The Consolidated Rural Water and Sewer District #1 of Jefferson County from

Hastings, OK won the Silver Award, with the City of Emporia, KS. earning Bronze.

The Northwest Dyersburg Utility District in Dyersburg, TN and the City of Scottsbluff, NE completed the top five.



2016 ANNUAL TECHNICAL CONFERENCE RECAP

By: Heather McLeod, Membership Services Assistant



I can't believe another conference has come and gone already! This year was a big success for us, as we hit another attendance record at 466 (our old record was 456). According to the feedback cards we received back, the conference was a success for those who attended too. Their most popular favorite item was the exhibitors with other items including speakers, topics, and location of the conference.

Thank you to everyone to who attended, exhibited, spoke, donated prizes for the sportsman's raffle, for the cash drawings, donated to the scholarship fund or bought tickets for the sportsman's raffle. You all are part of the reason why we continue to hear that our conference is one of the best around!

Special thanks to: National Wash Authority for donating the ATV, Vince Schwab for taking time off from his job to come down and sell raffle tickets, Carlos Covarrubias for selling tickets during Casino night, and PDC Labs, Key Equipment, Brotcke Well & Pump & Sherwin-Williams for sponsoring lunches.

Congratulations to: Samantha Sherer from Roxana & Caleb Crawford from Girard for winning \$1,000 Associate Member Scholarships, Mitch McCaw for winning the ATV and Water Operations Specialist of the Year, City of Newton – Water Plant of the Year, Rick Broaddus – Wastewater Operations Specialist of the Year, Village of De Soto – Wastewater Plant of the Year, Wayne Nelson – Person of the Year, Village of Moweaqua—Best Tasting Water and Ford Meter Box – Associate Member of the Year.

Mark your calendars for next year's conference on February 21-23, 2017 at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham.





By: Gale Moore, Circuit Rider

Distribution leak detection may help facilities identify and reduce water losses. Other considerations include testing, repair, and/or replacing your master and residential meters. How much water am I losing? A 1/8 stream loses approximately 11 gallons per hour, take that times 24 hours and your losing 264 gallons per day, take that times 365 days and you have lost 96,360 gallons per year. As I do a lot of leak detections I find a lot of fire hydrants leaking and escaping through the drain back and not surfacing. If you estimated that loss at 2 gallons per minute, that's a little over a 1,000,000 gallons per year. Next take a service line that is leaking full force and going to a tile or the sewer, if you compared it to the average flow of a water meter (20 gpm) that would be approximately a 30,000 gallon per day loss. And then the dreaded water main break, depending on the size and pressure of the water main, the loss is crucial. Large leaks do not necessarily constitute the greatest loss of water if the water reaches the surface where they are quickly found, isolated, and repaired. It's the undetected leaks, even the small ones that can lead to large quantities of lost water going undetected for a long period of time. Ironically, small leaks are easier to detect because they are noisier and easier to hear. In fact, many large leaks make almost no sound at all due to the reduced pressure. . There are various methods for locating distribution leaks from using a screwdriver to correlation equipment. Illinois Rural Water Association can help, as we have

leak locating equipment including the screwdriver. Also we have a leak detection checklist on our website that is very helpful to use before calling a leak detection professional.



Calculating Unaccounted for Water:

Unaccounted for water is the difference between water produced (metered at the treatment plant) and metered use (sales plus non-revenue producing metered water).
 Unaccounted for water (%) = (gallons pumped – gallons sold) divided by gallons pumped x 100%

OR check our website for our Monthly Water Loss Report form.



GPS/GIS MAPPING SERVICES

Through the implementation of GPS & GIS technology, IRWA can effectively produce hard copy and digital maps. With this new service available from IRWA, utilities can attain new and accurate maps to better manage their infrastructure assets.

The printed maps can be large-scale wall maps up to 36"x48" showing major water and wastewater features with the desired layers (aerial photos, streets, topography, etc.). The printed maps can also be generated into a map book format. The map book is a bound 11"x17" book of high-detail maps printed at the best available scale.

The digital map file on a CD, can be viewed and printed with free software that IRWA will provide. The software allows you to click on a waterline with a leak and highlight which valves need to be closed to isolate the line. There are also tracing features to show the direction of water flow, and other useful features.

Payment for services is determined by a charge per each system feature located. The amount charged for a Map Book will be \$50 plus \$5 per page; and a wall map is billed at \$100 per map. More information is also posted on our website at www.ilrwa.org or you may call our office at 217-287-2115.



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QUALITY ON TAP



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PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

ILLINOIS RURAL WATER ASSOCIATION

13TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

WHEN: FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2016
10:00 A.M. SHOT GUN START

WHERE: PIPER GLEN GOLF CLUB
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



PLEASE JOIN US FOR ANOTHER FUN FILLED DAY WITH PEERS!